

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Advisory Action mailed June 9, 2004.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 3 – 9 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have canceled claims 22 - 23 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 22 - 23 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Although claims 22 and 23 have been canceled, Applicants respectfully assert that one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, upon reviewing the specification and drawings, would readily understand the subject matter of those claims. Thus, Applicants do not dedicate the subject matter of those claims to the public directly or under the doctrine of equivalents by the mere cancellation of such claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Advisory Action indicates that claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. As set forth above, Applicants have canceled these claims and respectfully assert that the remaining claims 3 – 9 have been indicated as being in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that claims 3 – 9 be allowed.

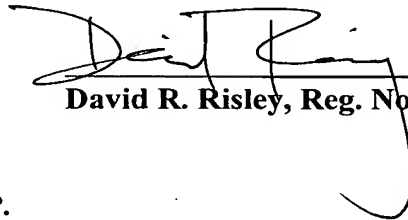
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 3 – 9 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
100 Galleria Parkway N.W., Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on 8/17/04.

Stephanie Bilus

Signature